

Serial No. 09/536,020

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Art Unit: 2633

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 13 without prejudice or dedication.

1. (previously presented) A label switching routing method for multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) optical communications network, comprising:
 - establishing a datapath as a sequence of labels between a source and a sink in said optical communications network, wherein each label includes a wavelength field containing a value of a wavelength frequency to be used for communication over a corresponding portion of the datapath associated with the label,
 - converting a first wavelength field of a first label to a second wavelength of a second label and forwarding the traffic to said sink according to said datapath, including updating the sequence of labels to replace the first label with the second label; and
 - transmitting said second wavelength label to said source.
2. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each label further includes a timeslot field storing a time value indicating one of a plurality of timeslots to be used for communication over the corresponding portion of the datapath associated with the label.
3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said plurality of timeslots are of variable size.
4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising splitting said label received at an incoming interface into two outgoing composite labels.
5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising combining two incoming composite labels into one outgoing composite label.